

REMARKS AND
RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Prior to the examination of this application on the merits, please amend claims as shown on pages 2-6 of this paper. Applicants have canceled claims 2, 3, 8, 9, 10, 13, 14, 15, 16, and 19-21 without prejudice. Applicants reserve the right to pursue the subject matter of canceled claims in this or related applications. By this Amendment, Applicants added new claims 22-28 and amended claims 1, 4-8, 11, 12, and 15. Support for these amendments can be found, for example, on page 13, line 6, through page 15, line 7, and original claims 1-8 and 15. New claims 22-28 belong to Group II set forth in the restriction requirement dated October 6, 2004. No new matter has been introduced.

The Examiner required restriction under 35 U.S.C. § 121 between the following groups of claims:

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| Group I | Claims 1-15, drawn to a method of inhibiting B cell growth in an animal comprising administering a BAFF-R polypeptide or fragment thereof or a chimeric molecule comprising a BAFF-R fused to a heterologous amino acid sequence; |
| Group II | Claims 1-15 and 17-18, drawn to a method of inhibiting B cell growth in an animal comprising administering an anti-BAFF-R antibody; |
| Group III | Claim 16, drawn to a method of treating, suppressing or altering an immune response comprising the step of administering an effective amount of an agent; and |
| Group IV | Claims 19-21, drawn to a pharmaceutical composition comprising an isolated BAFF-R polypeptide or fragment thereof. |

Applicants elect with traverse claims of Group II (claims 1-15, 17-18 and new claims 22-28). The Examiner did not explicitly state that all methods recited in the preambles of claims 1-15 and 17-18 in the definition of Group II directed to include: a method of inhibiting B cell growth (claims 1 and 8-15), a method of inhibiting immunoglobulin production (claims 2 and 8-15), a methods of inhibiting dendritic cell-induced B cell growth and maturation (claims 3 and 8-15), a methods of treating an autoimmune disease (claims 4 and 8-15), a method of treating hypertension (claims 5 and 8-15), a method of treating renal disorders (claims 6 and 8-15), a method of treating B-cell lymphoproliferative disorders (claims 7 and 8-15), and a method of inhibiting inflammation (claims 17-18).


Applicants bring to the Examiner's attention a co-pending continuation-in-part application No. 10/077,137, filed by Applicants on February 15, 2002 and previously cited in an Information Disclosure Statement filed on November 14, 2002.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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